Vol. IX. Numb. 20

THE OBSERVATOR.

On the Sentence upon Dr. Sacheverell, *and the Moderation of it. On the contrary Temper of the Faction, their boasting of the Number of those that were for finding him not guilty, and their insulting the publick Justice of the Nation, by Bonfires, Illuminations, and Mobs, because of their Clemency. The Reasonableness of a Law against Bonfires and tumultuous Mobs in the Streets. Verses in* English *and* Latin *on the Doctor and his Mob. A short Account of what he is found guilty of.*

From Wednesday, March 22. to Saturday, March 25. 1710.

Obs. I Hope now, *Roger*, you are able to give me an Account of the Judgment given by the Lords against Dr. *Sacheverell*, and how his Mob behave themselves upon it.

Country-m. Their Lordships have discharg'd him from Preaching for three Years, Master, and order'd his Sermon to be burnt by the common Hangman; at which his senseless Mob rejoyce, as if he had come off with flying Colours: They made Bonfires and Illuminations in some Parts, and, according to the modern Explanation of their Doctrine of Passive-Obedience, damn'd and knock'd down all that pass'd by, who would not worship their Idol. Nay, Master, they are come to that Height of Insolence, as to say the Lords durst not make their Sentence any severer, and to threaten what they would have done, if they had; besides, they boast mightily of the Number of those who voted him not guilty.

Obs. Alas! poor Wretches! their Ignorance deserves Pity, tho' their Malice and Sedition deserves Punishment. They have no Reason to value themselves upon the Number of those who were not for finding him guilty of all that he was charg'd with; for many of them are known to hate his Principles, and most of them did openly condemn his Sermons as foolish and malicious; tho' for other Considerations that are obvious enough, they thought him not worth while to be proceeded against in so solemn a Manner, and were for extenuating his Punishment, because of the Contemptibleness of his Person, and the visible Madness of his Conduct; which seem'd to entitle him to *Bedlam*, and a Course of *Hellebore*. But since the Majority of the Lords have found him guilty of all he was charg'd with, for which it will appear they had very good Reason when the Tryal is publish'd, the Moderation of his Punishment does nothing at all lessen his Crime, but on the contrary heaps Coals of Fire on the Head of himself and his Faction, and shews, that a Spirit of Mercy and Lenity is always inseparable from a Spirit of Liberty, so remarkable in those who adhere to the Revolution; whereas Cruelty and Fury are the constant Attendants of a Spirit of Tyranny and Bigotry, so remarkable in those of the contrary Faction. This is the true Reason of the Moderation of the Lords, *Roger*, because they would not copy after the hateful Example of the *Laudean* Faction, who treated many worthy Divines and Gentlemen in a barbarous Manner, merely because they stood up for the establish'd Laws and Religion, against Men of arbitrary and popish Principles, witness their pillorying, cutting off the Ears, slitting the Nose, and branding the Face of *Alexander Lighton*, D. D. sentencing him to perpetual Imprisonment, and fining him in 10000 *l.* for some Expressions against Popery, and *Laud*, and the other persecuting Bishops, during that Reign, in a Book entitl'd, *An Appeal to the Parliament*. Every Body knows how they treated Mr. *Prynn*, an eminent Lawyer, for writing against Plays; Mr. *Burton*, a grave Church of *England* Divine, for writing against Popery; and Dr. *Bastwick*, a noted Physician, for the like, and writing against High-Church Innovations; they were pillory'd, branded with hot Irons in the Face, had not only their Ears, but Part of their Cheeks cut off, were fin'd in 5000 *l.* each, sentenc'd to perpetual Imprisonment in remote Places, were not allow'd the Liberty to see their Wives, or other nearest Relations, and their Keepers were fin'd from 250 to 500 *l.* apiece, for letting People visit them before there was any Prohibition against it. I shall take another Opportunity to tell you more of that Nature, *Roger*, but this is sufficient to shew the Difference betwixt the Spirit of the Gospel and Liberty, and that of Bigotry and Tyranny; so that 'tis the avoiding of those curs'd Examples, and not the Threats of a profligate, damning, cursing, swearing, and drunken, popish, Jacobite, and high-flying, cowardly, house-breaking Mob, that has influenc'd our noble Patriots the Lords to this Moderation; for no Body of common Sense can think, that the Threats of such a brutish and mean-spirited Rabble, who chose the Covert of the Night for their outragious Works of Darkness, and fled upon the first Appearance of Opposition, could have any more Influence upon the Moderation of the Sentence, than the barking of so many of the most contemptible Animals.

Country-m. I am altogether of your Opinion, Master; yet, as they have done a great deal of Mischief, and are wicked enough to do more if they meet with Opportunities, here's a Letter to you from a very worthy Gentleman upon that Subject, which I must pray you to consider. 'Tis thus, Master:

SIR, *March* 22. 1709.

'THE pernicious Consequences which attend 'an ungovern'd Mob, are so great, that I 'could not but trouble you with what I think 'may be a great Means of promoting such Tu'mults; and that is, their assembling together on 'Victories and other publick Nights, and offering 'all manner of Violence, both to Persons in the 'Streets, and in Coaches, and breaking Windows, 'and knocking at Doors, to the great Terror and 'Affrightment of the Inhabitants, who are thereby 'constrain'd to light them while they commit their 'Outrages. This, Sir, seems to me to be a School or 'Academy to train them up for pulling down 'Houses and Plundering, and gives Opportunity 'to our Enemies to head them when Occasion 'serves; so that it seems necessary to prevent such 'riotous Assemblies, least we smart by them; of 'which we have had but too sad an Instance lately. 'If you can propose an Expedient to this Purpose, 'you will greatly serve the Publick, and much o'blige, Sir, your humble Servant,

Philirene.

Obs. The Gentleman has a great deal of Reason for what he says, *Roger*; and considering with what a Spirit of Fury and Madness *Sacheverell* and his Faction have inspir'd their lewd and ignorant Mob, I do think that the preventing of Bonfires on such Occasions, may deserve an Act, as well as throw-

throwing of Squibs, which never did the hundredth part of the Miſchief that *Sacheverell*'s Rabble has done; and ſince they were ſo impudent as to commit thoſe Outrages againſt the Authority and Perſons of Queen, Lords, and Commons, in Parliament aſſembl'd, 'tis probable enough they may improve ſuch Opportunities when the Parliament is not ſitting to carry on their miſchievous Purpoſes, and to the endangering of her Majeſty's Life; for Popiſh and High-Church Aſſaſſins would be as willing to murder her ſacred Perſon, in whom the Safety and Peace of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* is, under God, bound up, as they were to murder her late Siſter and Brother in Law, of ever bleſſed Memory, and as the Government has thought fit to diſcharge the riotous Aſſemblies of *Bartholomew* and *May* Fairs, and others, which never put the Peace of the City and Nation in ſo much Danger as *Sacheverell*'s Mob did, I ſhould think, with Submiſſion to our Legiſlature, that an Act diſcharging all Bonfires, and tumultuous Rabbles in the Street, might be very neceſſary, ſince Illuminations are much more genteel, every Whit as expreſſive of publick Reſpect, and attended with none of thoſe ill Conſequences; tho' I think even thoſe ſhould be diſcharg'd too under ſufficient Penalties, when ſet up in Contempt of publick Authority, as well as drinking of Healths, eſpecially in publick Markets, to countenance Criminals in Oppoſition to Juſtice.

Country-m. That ſame Gentleman has ſent you ſome *Latin* Verſes on the late Mob, as follows, Maſter.

In nuperos Vulgi inſanientis Tumultus, dum reus agitur magnorum Criminum, Sacheverellus, *pro Tribunali ſuperioris Domus Parliamenti in* Aula Weſtmonaſterienſi.

EN quo perduxit miſerum Veſania Vulgus,
Inflatum viro, Sacheverelle, *tuo!*
Turbida Paulinas *tua Concio pollut Ædes,*
In rabiem Vulgus præcipitavit iners.
Paſſivæ triſtes Doctrinæ reſpice fructus;
Quod non jure potes, hoc ſine jure facis.
Hinc Vulgi inſanies, vis ac incendia, fratrum
Ædes Presbyterum, corripuere ſacras.
Exulat Aſtræa, *crudelis regnat* Erinnys
Turba, fremore, minis, ſævit & igne ferox.
Calcatur pietas, Legum reverentia nulla eſt:
Hæc mala debentur Sacheverelle *tibi.*
Pro meritis igitur reddantur, ſæve Sacerdos
Legibus ut viſum eſt, præmia digna tibi.

I got my Boy *Tom* to paraphraſe them thus, Maſter; but he begs the Gentleman's Pardon, and wiſhes he had ſav'd him the Labour.

On the late Tumults of the mad Rabble, while Sacheverell *was try'd for high Crimes and Miſdemeanors before the upper Houſe of Parliament in* Weſtminſter-hall.

BEhold, Sacheverell, *how thy Poyſon works,*
And makes the brutiſh Mob as mad as Turks!
Thy fiery Preachment has inflam'd St. Paul's,
And put the Rabble in tumultuous Brawls:
Are theſe the Fruits of thy high paſſive Strains,
With lawleſs Rage to ſwell thy Faction's Brains?
'Tis that which rais'd their Fury, whet their Ire,
To ſet Diſſenters Churches all on Fire.
Aſtræa's *fled,* Erinnys *ſweighs alone;*
With Mobs, Noiſe, Threats, and Firebrands ſhe goes on;
Treads down Religion, tramples on our Laws,
Damns all but 'Chev'rell, *and his High-Church Cauſe.*
May th' hair-brain'd Prieſt, with's bloody Flag, inherit
The Fate that's due to ſuch a helliſh Spirit.

Obſ. Tom does well enough, *Roger*; but his Paraphraſe has a little too much of Burleſque for the Gentleman's grave Lines. In the mean Time, let the Faction inſult as much as they pleaſe upon the Moderation of the Sentence, their Cauſe has receiv'd a mortal Stab, ſince their Ring-Leader is found guilty in a Parliamentary Way, of a wicked, malicious, and ſeditious Intention, to undermine and ſubvert her Majeſty's Government, and the Proteſtant Succeſſion, as by Law eſtabliſh'd, to defame her Majeſty's Adminiſtration, to aſperſe the Memory of his late Majeſty, and condemn the late happy Revolution, to contradict and arraign the Reſolution of both Houſes of Parliament, to create Jealouſies and Diviſions among her Majeſty's Subjects, and to incite them to Sedition and Rebellion. This is ſuch an eternal and indelible Brand of Infamy upon the Doctor and his Abettors, and all ſuch as preach and publiſh the like ſeditious Diſcourſes as they will never be able to wipe off. It gives them Cauſe of weeping, wailing, and gnaſhing of Teeth, rather than of inſulting the Lords and Commons, whom, together with the Queen, and God himſelf, they now curſe and look upward, the Practice of Hell, which has fill'd our Iſland with ſuch Locuſts from the bottomleſs Pit.

Advertiſements.

Yeſterday was publiſh'd,

☞ An Elegy on the Death of High-Church Paſſive-Obedience and Non-Reſiſtance; which departed this Life on the 22d of this Inſtant March, 1709-10, much lamented. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row. Price 1d.

Juſt publiſh'd,

☞ Reflexions on Dr. Sacheverell's Anſwer to the Articles of Impeachment exhibited againſt him by the Honourable Houſe of Commons, Paragraph by Paragraph. Which contains an Anſwer to moſt, if not all of what he ſaid in his Speech at the Bar of the Houſe of Lords in Weſtminſter-hall, March 7. 1709-10. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row. Price 1s. A Trumpeter taken Priſoner. Price one Penny.

This Day is publiſh'd, (in Dunton's Oracle)

☞ An Anſwer to this Queſtion, Whether a good Man that is prepar'd for Death, may be ſaid to die ſuddenly? Occaſion'd by Dr. How's falling down dead in the Poultrey, with great Variety of other nice and curious Queſtions. This Athenian News will be continu'd in 3000 diſtinct Poſts, to each of which will be added, The Caſuiſtical Poſt, or, Athenian Mercury, reſolving all nice and curious Queſtions whatever. The Farewell Mob, Whipping and Paradoxical Poſt are already publiſh'd; and next Tueſday the Ladies may expect The Sybil-Poſt, or, Ideal Kingdom, being a new Diſcovery (or Colony) made for the Uſe of the Ladies, and will be continu'd in Dunton's Oracle, 'till all the Colonies are planted. And next Saturday will be publiſh'd, The Love-Poſt, or, a Packet from Athens, containing all the Billets Deux, tender Letters, Love Caſes, and merry Intrigues, that paſs'd between the Athenian Society, and the moſt ingenious Ladies in the Queen's Dominions for the whole Time the old Athenian Mercury was continu'd. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-hall.

Juſt publiſh'd,

☞ The Virgin unmask'd, in ten Female Dialogues betwixt an elderly Maiden Lady, and her Niece, on ſeveral diverting Diſcourſes, on Love, Marriage, Memoirs, and Morals, &c. of the preſent Times. The ſecond Edition, corrected. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row.

☞ TINCTURA CÆLESTIS. The celebrated Medicine of the Age for many Years paſt, as an effectual Remedy in moſt chronical Diſeaſes, to which moſt part of this Nation can give ample Teſtimony, but moſt particularly in the Stone of the Reins and Bladder, (in which its Virtues have been lately ſignaliz'd) in the Gout, Rheumatiſm, and all Joint Pains, Dropſy, Scurvy, Obſtruction of the Stomach, Liver, Spleen, Meſentary, and other Bowels, whereby Concoction is hinder'd, and infinite Diſeaſes are propagated, relieving alſo ſuch as are afflicted with Vapours, and Fumes ariſing to the Head, which being fix'd thereto, cauſe Headach, Dizzineſs, Epilepſy, Appoplexy, and other dangerous and deplorable Diſeaſes. It is prepar'd by the Author, at the Golden Head in Blue Ball Court in Saliſbury-Square in Fleet-ſtreet; and ſold at 1s. and 2s. 6d. the Bottles, and Directions how to uſe it.

☞ Gentlemen, who have any Thing to communicate to the Author of this Paper, are deſir'd to direct it to be left with B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row, Poſt pay'd. Where Advertiſements are taken in.

☞ Eliz. Tutchin, Widow of the late John Tutchin, who formerly kept a Boarding-ſchool at Newington-Green and Shacklewell, now keeps a School near the Nags-head at Highgate; where is good Accommodation for Lodgers.

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